

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

Office of Publication: 124 E. First St., Dixon, Ill. Editorial and Executive Office: 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois

An Independent Christian Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul-Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness and Formalism

VOL. XI, NO. 15

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1949

United States 1 year \$2.00; 3 years \$5.00
Canada and foreign 1 year \$2.50; 3 years \$6.50

WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE WHO STAY OUT AFTER MIDNIGHT?

By REV. TOM MALONE, Pastor
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Pontiac, Michigan

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them;

But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you; but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and that they were ready, went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.—Matt. 25:1-13.

"And at midnight there was a cry made. Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him" (Matt. 25:6). Many interesting and dramatic events which took place at midnight are recorded in the Bible. Some dozen or more times the word midnight is used in the Scriptures, and around that word hinges some of the most thrilling stories that the Word of God has to tell.

It was midnight when God finally brought terrible judgment upon the Egyptians and wrought wonderful deliverance for His people who had been so long in bondage. In Exodus 11:4, 5 we read, "Thus saith the Lord, About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt: And all the first-born in the land of Egypt shall die." Yes, at midnight God killed

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Rev. Tom Malone

With the Evangelists

Reports From America's Outstanding Soul Winners

By the Editor

Evangelist F. A. Wirth Reports Good Services in Rushville and Beardstown, Illinois

"We were in a revival meeting in the Baptist Church at Rushville, Illinois, during the month of February. God gave us a Heaven-sent meeting which was community-wide in its reach. There were seventeen who came forward to profess faith in the Lord and many to renew their vows. Some started family altars in their homes. Many told us it was the greatest meeting they had seen in years. The building was filled several nights and we praised the Lord for it, as they only have about 15 attending Sunday School.

"God is surely blessing us in

the meeting here. In two weeks over fifty people have come down to the front of the church to accept Jesus Christ as their own Saviour. Two of these have been women about the age of seventy or older. Last Sunday the pastor baptized seventeen in the baptistry and perhaps twenty more will be baptized in the river as soon as the weather gets warmer. The church people are on fire and working like bees to get the unsaved under the sound of the Gospel. This is our fourth or fifth meeting here.

"Our next meeting will be with Brother Clay Starr in Sunbright, Tennessee. Will be there in the First Baptist Church from March 27th to April 10th. Please have your helpers remember us in prayer."

(Continued on Page 5)



The Sword Book Club News

The Sword Book Club News is in this issue. Members, be sure not to miss the announcement of the May selection! The News is on page 8 of this issue and the book *The Bible Has the Answer*, by Dale Crowley is one you will want to have in your library. Be sure to read the News carefully. If you don't want this book to come to you automatically, you must clip out the substitution blank and mail it to us. It must reach us no later than May 6.

Are you a member of the Sword Book Club? If not, you are missing valuable opportunities and the best books in current Christian literature, as well as free books. Don't let this opportunity slip by—read the Sword Book Club News, see the special coupon for new members, which is on the same page, and investigate the Sword Book Club plan for more books on your library shelves for less money. All of them are winners picked by a special Board of Judges composed of outstanding Christian leaders.

SOUL WINNING

Seventh Secret of Christian Happiness and Prosperity

(Last chapter of book, *Seven Secrets of a Happy, Prosperous Christian Life*.)

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

We sometimes speak of "the revival at Pentecost." Actually, the revival did not end at Pentecost. We are told, "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).

People were added to the church daily! And I think this means the local congregation.

1. How New Testament Christians Won Souls

Some churches these days receive new converts into the church once a year, at Easter time. Other churches have a membership committee that meets once a month, and once a month new converts, if any, may be received into the church. When I was a pastor we regularly received members each week and it was a very, very unusual Sunday in which there were not converts coming for baptism on profession of their faith in Christ and for membership in the church. But this wonderful revival church in Jerusalem received members every day! "The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Ah, there is the purpose of a

church! These people knew what God intended churches for! The Lord Jesus left us here to win souls. He has given to us the Great Commission to take the gospel to every creature. He told the apostles that they should go out and make disciples of all nations and that the new converts, when baptized, should be taught "to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:20). Every convert at Jerusalem had the instructions to carry out the Great Commission just as Jesus gave it to the apostles. So these wonderfully happy, Spirit-filled Christians kept on winning souls and daily God added to the church the new converts. That is the seventh great principle of happiness and prosperity for a Christian life: soul winning.

And these converts kept it up! (Continued on Page 4)

He Arose --- And So Shall We

(Easter Sermon)

By REV. W. HERSCHEL FORD, D.D., Pastor
First Baptist Church, El Paso, Texas

"It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him."—II Tim. 2:11.

Today the Christian world makes much of Easter. Sunrise services are held in many of the beauty spots of our nation, and the crowds are thronging into every church. The lilies are here before the altar, symbolic of the resurrection of Christ. If we could go into Jerusalem and follow the guide on this day, he would take us to a garden tomb. Pointing into that tomb he would say, "This is where He lay before He rose from the dead." It is one day when men all around the globe are thinking of the resurrection of the Saviour.

Now for the Bible Christian every Sunday is Easter. Every Sunday we commemorate the resurrection. Christ arose on the first day of the week, and as we observe this day every week we are celebrating His resurrection from the dead. And yet it does us no harm to join the throngs who are today thinking of Christ's triumph over the tomb.

Jesus had come into the world in the form of a little babe. When He came the heavens opened... the angels came down and sang their wonderful song, and men marveled at His birth. Throughout life, wherever Jesus went He caused an upheaval. He was a heavenly Being, and when He came to earth and walked the ways of man, He shook the world.

So when Jesus came to die, it wasn't a quiet death in a darkened room — He died out yonder upon a high hill with thousands of people looking on. A few of them were mourning for Him, but the majority of them were cheering

His death, and when He died He shook the world again. The veil of the temple was rent in twain from top to bottom. An earthquake tore the rocks apart. The faithful sun which had been shining for so many years ceased to shine for three long hours and the Heavens were sad as the Son of God poured out His innocent blood upon a guilty cross. But they buried Him and sealed Him in a Roman tomb — and everything was quiet at last. The Christ who had caused an upheaval everywhere was lying silently in the grave.

The days drag by — Sunday morning comes and the earth is shaken again. Jesus rises up from the grave — bursts the tomb open and walks in the sunlight again. All the forces of Hell and earth could not keep Him in that tomb. He is the Master of life and death. He is the Victor over the dark domain. He conquered the grave and came forth to live forever and never die. He came to shake the nations, to save the souls of men, to guide the destinies of the universe and to be the King of kings, and Lord of lords, and so we sing:

Low in the grave He lay,
Jesus my Saviour
Waiting the coming day, Jesus
my Lord.
Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er
His foes
He arose a victor from the
dark domain
And He lives forever with His
saints to reign.
He arose, He arose, Hal-
lelujah, Christ arose!

I. Let Us Look at His Resurrection

1. His resurrection was a climax of everything that He ever did.

His birth was wonderful — His life was wonderful — His miracles were wonderful — His death was wonderful — but when He arose (Continued on Page 3)



Dr. Herschel Ford

What Happens to People Who Stay Out After Midnight?

(Continued from Page 1)

thousands upon thousands of the firstborn of the Egyptians. It was an hour of darkness, judgment, calamity, weeping and crying, the like of which had never before occurred in Egypt. It was an hour of God's fury and wrath upon sin, wickedness and rebellion.

It was at midnight when a baby boy was kidnapped during the reign of Solomon. In I Kings 3:20 we read, "And she arose at midnight, and took my son..." Yes, a little baby boy was stolen at the midnight hour and Solomon demonstrated his God-given wisdom in restoring the stolen child to his rightful mother.

Great things happened at midnight in the city of Philippi when two God-anointed and God-appointed evangelists went there for a revival. The Scripture tells us, "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them" (Acts 16:25). Yes, at midnight two preachers who could not be scared out of preaching the truth; two preachers who were more concerned about attacking sin and wickedness than about being nice and tactful and diplomatic; two preachers who wanted souls to be saved even at the cost of their life's blood, sang and prayed. At midnight God sent an earthquake and scared a jailer out of Hell (and incidentally scared Hell out of the jailer) and saved his whole family.

Many interesting things must have happened to Paul at midnight. In Acts 20:7 we are told, "Paul preached unto them... and continued his speech until midnight." Paul was somewhat long-winded and so preached that night until midnight. One young man sitting in a window got tired of listening to the sermon, went to sleep, fell out of the window and killed himself, and had to be restored to life. People have gone to sleep listening to much better preachers than I am!

This parable of the ten virgins seems to indicate that the coming of the Lord can be looked upon as a midnight event—not necessarily midnight as far as the hours of the solar day are determined, for the Bible plainly teaches that "no man knoweth the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." It certainly will not be a midnight hour for the church but rather an hour long awaited, an hour of glad re-

union, of resurrection and of the dawning of a new and happy day. But midnight is an hour of crisis an hour which denotes deadline and finality. It is the hour in which many criminals are put to death on the gallows, or in the electric chair, or in the gas chamber. The coming of Jesus Christ back to earth will certainly be an hour of deadline and crisis and finality as far as the sinner is concerned. It will be the hour of deadline as far as the pleading of the Holy Spirit, the prayers of God's saints for sinners, the preaching of the gospel of grace is concerned. Oh, sinner! Don't stay out of the kingdom of God until after midnight!

Now will you notice four things about these virgins.

I. All Ten of Them Finally Went to Sleep Before the Bridegroom Came

All ten of the virgins were asleep when the cry was made that Jesus was coming. "While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept" (vs. 5). The five foolish were asleep and the five wise were also asleep. The five foolish were unsaved, the five wise were saved, but even the saved were slumbering when the bridegroom came. This is a picture of the church just before and at the time of the coming of Christ. When Jesus comes, He will find many Christians asleep.

What a picture of the church—sleepy, drowsy, slumbering! Not awake, not alert, not on the job for Jesus. Jesus will find many, many Christians who are not putting forth the slightest bit of effort to win souls. Many do not pray, do not weep over sinners, do not warn them of judgment and Hell, do not give time nor money to win them. When He comes, He will find many of His own who are not sensitive to sin; they do not hate it, they do not weep and mourn over the sinfulness of the times and are not at all disturbed that thousands of souls are perishing.

Many preachers do not warn people, do not lift up their voices like a trumpet and cry aloud against sin in the lives of both saved and unsaved. I fear that the blame for much of the coldness, backsliding and sleeping on the part of many of God's people can be placed upon the preachers of our nation. The preacher is supposed to be God's watchman, God's shepherd, God's voice to the people. Oh, for a revival in our pulpits that will awaken and alert both preacher and people! Uncle Bud Robinson used to say, "Where you find icebergs in the pew, you usually find a polar bear in the pulpit!" May God give to us preachers a heart to agonize, travail and wait upon Him in long hours of prayer that we might experience a mighty awakening before Jesus comes. God help us to be more concerned over revivals and the souls of men than over program and ceremony and denominationalism. Just as Peter, James and John slept while Jesus wept and prayed, so many today are asleep while the heart of God breaks over a lost world.

Many Christians say, "Well, I am saved and I'll be caught up when Jesus comes, whether I am separated from the world or filled with the Spirit or not." What a cheap, sinful attitude to take! You will not feel that way when you see Him! You will be ashamed and embarrassed at His coming. "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming" (I John 2:28). If Jesus comes and finds you entangled in unholy, worldly alliances, you will be embarrassed. If He comes and you meet Him empty handed, having won no souls, you will be ashamed. If He finds you prayerless and cold and indifferent, you will be ashamed before Him. I feel that the same brokenhearted, burdened, travelling Christ who sweated blood as He agonized in Gethsemane looks today with a broken heart upon many Christians and

says, "Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation" (Luke 22:46).

II. The Five Foolish Girls Had No Oil in Their Lamps

They did carry lamps; that is, they professed to be saved, professed to be waiting for Jesus to come, but there was no oil in their lamps. They even lighted their lamps when the cry was made that the bridegroom was coming, but the lamps only flickered and the flame soon began to die down and go out. They cried, "Give us of your oil; for our lamps are going out. All they had when the bridegroom came was an empty lamp, an empty profession. When the coming of Christ put their religion to the test, it wouldn't stand the test. They might have been church members but they were lost! No Spirit, no life, no reality, no Christ! Just an empty, shallow profession and nothing more. Only God knows how true this is of many who today claim to be Christians. They have nothing to lean on but church membership, or some good work or creed, or a church ordinance.

Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, and the Bible plainly teaches that we must be born of the Spirit in order to get into God's family. "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Rom. 8:9). "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5). So it is plain to be seen from the Scripture that only the person who is indwelt by the Holy Spirit is actually saved and ready for the coming of Jesus. There are some who are hypocritical about this matter. They profess to be saved when they well know they are not. They are trying to hide a wicked and sinful heart with an empty, flickering, dying lamp of profession. However, there are millions perhaps who are not hypocritical but who really think they are saved but are not. They have been deceived and misled by blind leaders. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 16:25). Oh friend, may God help you to search your heart! Let there be no doubt, no confusion, no mistake about this matter of being saved.

III. The Five Foolish Girls Faced a Closed Door

"And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut" (Matt. 25:10). They had waited too late! The door to the kingdom was shut in their face and they were on the outside. No amount of pleading and crying could cause the door to be opened. They had crossed the deadline! They had stayed out after midnight and now are lost forever.

The antediluvians also made the tragic mistake of staying out too late. God looked upon their wickedness and lust and said, "My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years" (Gen. 6:3). God said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth" (Gen. 6:7). When God looked upon the violence, immorality and rebellion of Noah's generation, what He saw "grieved him at his heart." God said, "I am sorry I ever made man. He is so wicked; his thoughts, purposes, desires, acts are all evil before me continually." But even in the judgment of the flood God's grace and mercy shine forth. God said that it would be yet a hundred and twenty years before judgment came. During that one hundred and twenty years Noah faithfully declared God's message. People had time to repent, to turn to God and be saved, but they did not want to be saved. They loved and enjoyed their sin. When the ark was completed and the hour of deadline and crisis had arrived, God said, "Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen

righteous before me in this generation" (Gen. 7:1). Then God Himself shut the door. We read, "And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the Lord shut him in" (Gen. 7:16). When God shut that door it sealed the eternal doom of that wicked generation of people. They had waited too late. The door of Heaven was closed in their faces. They had crossed the deadline! They had stayed out until after midnight.

Millions have made this mistake. They have procrastinated, have put off the all-important matter of being saved. God pleads with sinners, "Come NOW, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isa. 1:18). The psalmist said, "I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies. I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments" (Psa. 119:59, 60).

How well do I remember an incident that took place when I was about fourteen years of age. At that time I was attending a rural high school about twelve miles from the farm where I lived. Spring had come and school was soon to be over. I used to walk over a mile every morning—summer and winter—to catch the school bus, then ride about twelve miles. That year I was finishing the ninth grade and naturally felt quite educated! When the last day of school arrived, I was certainly happy. We were to have some special exercises; it was to be a big day. I wouldn't have missed it for anything.

But that morning I failed to watch the clock and the time slipped by before I knew it. When I realized it was getting late I ran out of the house and down the railroad track for over a mile to the highway where I was to catch the bus. There is little doubt in my mind but that I set a new world's record that morning for running the mile, but, of course, that is unofficial! When I finally came to the highway, I looked down the road and saw the bus going away from me. Frantically I waved my arms and screamed to the top of my voice, but to no avail. I was left behind! I was too late! I missed the last day of school and my heart was broken. Slowly I walked back home with tears streaming down my cheeks. I kept repeating to myself, "Too late!" "Too late!"

Friend, don't delay any longer. Settle this matter today. Don't stay out of the kingdom until it is too late. When Jesus comes and the door is shut, your hope of being saved will forever be gone.

IV. These Five Foolish Girls Faced an Awful Indictment; "I Never Knew You"

Even though these five virgins had carried their lamps and had pretended to be ready and waiting for the coming of the Lord, Jesus said, "I never knew you." They had associated with the five virgins who were saved and ready for the coming of Jesus, but they were not saved and not ready and so they lost their souls and went to Hell. Jesus plainly declares that many religious people shall be fooled, deceived and shall miss Heaven. In Matthew 7:21-23 we read:

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Some shall preach, some shall sing, some shall cast out devils, some shall do many seemingly, wonderful things, yet shall have nothing but an empty profession and shall hear Jesus say when He comes, "I never knew you." It is a dangerous thing to make a profession and yet not have real faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour. May God search your heart and show you your

need of being saved immediately. Take no chance with your soul. If Jesus were to come today, would you be ready? Have you been "born of the Spirit?" Do you really know Him as your own personal Saviour? Does He know you to be one of His? We are warned to be ready for His coming. "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Matt. 24:44). "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh" (Matt. 25:13).

You might ask, "Preacher, how can I be ready? How can I be saved?" Receive Jesus Christ today as your Saviour. Turn from all other hopes or plans and look only unto Him. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12). "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

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He Arose -- And So Shall We

(Continued from Page 1)

from the dead, He climaxed every wonderful thing He ever did. If we marvel at the cross when we see Him give his life away for the world, then we must stand in awe at the tomb when we see that He has risen from death unto life again.

The wars of the world are won, not in the first battle nor the second, nor the third, but in the final battle. Abraham Lincoln's life was filled with defeats. He ran for a half dozen offices and lost every race. But he won the final victory and became the President of the United States.

When you look at the life of Jesus it seems to be filled with defeats. When you see them drive Him out of their cities, you feel that He is defeated. When you see Him weeping over Jerusalem, you feel that He is defeated. When you see wicked men plot His death, you feel that He is defeated. When He prays in Gethsemane, you feel that He is defeated. . . . When they beat Him and spit upon Him and crown Him with thorns, you feel that He is defeated. When they pass the death sentence upon Him, you feel that He is defeated. When He is dying yonder upon the cross, you feel that He is defeated. But, oh, when He rises from the grave, we know that He is the Victor! He has won over every enemy, even the last enemy, death. Never again can Jesus be counted among the defeated. His resurrection climaxed everything that He ever did.

2. His resurrection proved the truth of everything that He ever said.

He made some extravagant statements while He was here, but when He arose from the grave He proved that He could keep every promise that He ever made. He said that if any man would come unto Him, He would save him and take him to Heaven, and that was a big claim. He stood one day and said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." That, too, was a big claim. He said that if any man would put Him first, He would give that man everything that he needed, and that was a big claim. He said that if a man asked Him for guidance, He would give him wisdom liberally and freely, and that was a big claim. But then one day He made the biggest claim of all—He said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." They tore down that temple upon the cross, but in three days He had built it back again. I tell you, a Saviour who can do that can do anything. You can put your trust in Him and He will never let you down.

3. His resurrection transformed the disciples' life.

They had been a group of cowards, but now since their leader had done such a wonderful thing, some of His resurrection power entered into them. The cowards became brave as lions and they faced a frowning world, and counted not their lives dear unto themselves. They gave those lives away and turned the world upside down for God.

Peter was one of them. A little maid came and faced him on that night and he cursed and swore and said he never knew Jesus. But look at him after the resurrection. See him as he preaches yonder upon the day of Pentecost. He tells the multitudes that they crucified the Lord of glory. He preached a pointed sermon, and on that day three thousand people were saved. He was living on the right side of the resurrection. On which side of the resurrection are you living? If you do now know a living Saviour, your life has been transformed and you have a power to live differently from other men who know not Christ.

4. His resurrection provided us with a Living Saviour.

He is not lying in a grave, but He is living on high.

(1) He lives to save us. We are sinners, we are lost and undone, we are dead in our sins,

and a dead man cannot save us and lift us up. But we know that because of the resurrection we have a living God who can save us from our sins.

Here is a man walking in the way of sin. His life is lived upon the lowest level of evil. But one day something happens to him. Life is all changed and he becomes a good man. And then one day he dies and goes to live forever with Christ on high. Did he do that by himself? No, it took a living Saviour to save him.

(2) He lives to comfort us. A dead man cannot speak comfort to our aching hearts, but a man who has been through all the sorrows of earth and the grave and who has risen from that grave can heal every wound that we will ever have. Are you heavy-hearted today? Have you lost a loved one? Does grief surround your life? Then come unto Him and say unto Him, "O, thou great Saviour, Thou who has suffered more than anyone, help me and comfort me!" And I tell you that He will put His loving arms around you and give you the comfort and peace that passeth all understanding.

(3) He lives to intercede for us. He stayed in the world for a while and then He went home to the Father. He is there by God's side today. He intercedes for us and He takes our part. He pleads our case before the heavenly

Father. We do not need an earthly high priest today, we do not need any human intermediary between us and God. We can go right to the heart of God through Jesus Christ our risen Saviour. "For He ever liveth to make intercession for us."

(4) He lives to come after us some day. In John 14:3, 4 He says, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." He left this world from the Mount of Olives, ascending to the Father in a cloud. And the men in white standing there said unto the disciples, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." He is coming back some day. Are you ready for that time? Are you living for Him? When the hour strikes and He comes again, are you ready for His coming?

(5) He lives to reign forever and ever. Many of the Old Testament prophets tell us that He would reign as a King forever. He did not reign upon a throne when He was here in the world. . . . He is not reigning now. Satan, the prince of the powers of this world and you can see what a mess he has made of it. But one day after Jesus takes us to Heaven He will come back to the earth in glory, bringing His saints with Him. He shall reign

upon the earth for a thousand years and in the New Jerusalem He will reign forever and ever.

II. Now Let Us Look at Our Resurrection

I am speaking now of the resurrection of Christians.

1. When shall we be raised?

We shall be raised when Jesus comes back in the air. We read in I Thessalonians 4:16, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first."

Jesus is in Heaven now, but at that time the heavens will open and He will burst out of the blue. He will linger in the air, He will give a shout, and all the Christians everywhere will rise up to meet Him. All those who are dead will come up out of their graves, and all those who are living will be caught up to meet Him.

Now when will this take place? We do not know, but the time may be nearer than we think. All the prophecies concerning the times before the coming of Christ have been fulfilled. There is nothing between us and His coming now except the filling up of the body of Christ. Then He will come for His people.

When you think of all the plans and the dreams that you have for yourself and for your loved ones, you say that you do not want Him to come so soon. But if you knew how much more wonderful it would be for us all when

He comes, you would welcome the time. His plans and His dreams are a million times more wonderful for us than any plans and dreams that we have for ourselves.

John stood upon the Isle of Patmos and God pulled back the curtain of eternity and allowed him to look into the heavenly City. The things that he saw there were so wonderful and beautiful and attractive that he cried out, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." If we knew exactly what was there for us as he knew, we, too, would be praying for the coming of our Saviour.

Now, how shall we be raised? It will not be through any power of our own, but through the power of Christ. You tell your loved one good-by and as you see him lying still in the casket you realize that there is no power there. You place that loved one in a grave and his body is soon corrupt and decayed. There is no power in that grave. But Christ has resurrection power and He will impart that power to all those who believe in Him and raise them up on the wings of that power in that blessed day.

2. What will happen to us when we are raised?

(1) First, we shall be changed. First Corinthians 15:51-52 says, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead

(Continued on Page 4)

BOOKS for PREACHERS

For the preacher, books are tools. His library is such an important source of material that the preacher (and his friends) should keep a constant look-out for books to help him. Of course the main sources of power and of blessing, and of help for a preacher—as for anybody else—are the Word of God, prayer and meditation. But how wonderful it is that the thought and wisdom of preachers down through the years, from all over the world, may be brought together in one room, to help one preacher in preparing his messages! Yes, books, are tools for the preacher, and we believe these books are some of the most important a preacher can have.

THE PREACHER AND HIS PREACHING by W. B. Riley. This great preacher, founder of the Northwest-



ern Schools, Christian leader, gives fourteen chapters on the preacher and his preaching. There are five chapters on the preacher himself—secrets of success, ethics for a preacher, standards for a preacher, habits a preacher should develop. This section alone will be a wonderful inspiration and help to any young preacher. Then there are nine chapters on the sermon itself; sermon outlines and construction, illustrations, alliteration, delivery, forms of sermons, etc.

This is a valuable handbook even for ministers who have been preaching for years; for the ministerial student it is a gold mine! In this book alone you will find dozens of sermons already outlined, already prepared. But even more important is the detailed, explicit instruction about preaching. There are 146 pages with space for notes added. The book is bound in lovely grey cloth, printed in red. The dust jacket is purple, and shows Dr. Riley in one of his best and latest photographs, and the First Baptist Church in Minneapolis where he was pastor for 45 years. **\$2.00**

BOB JONES' REVIVAL SERMONS. Here is a book of sermons by a man who has spoken to more people face to face than any living evangelist! Dr. Jones for 50 years has been preaching, and out of his great ministry and full life come these sermons to stir your heart, bless your life and enable you to help others. They provide good examples of effective revival preaching. They will teach and help and inspire. **\$2.00** Clothbound with jacket. 188 pages, price.....

THE SWORD BOOK OF TREASURES, edited by Dr. John R. Rice. A collection of classics, taken from THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Many of them have been reprinted in a number of places, and they are worthy of a place in this outstanding collection, in permanent form. These favorites are included: "Pearls of Paradise", "The Wonder of the Book", "The Finnish Gold Story", "Seven Men Went Singing Into Heaven", "Safety, Certainty and Enjoyment", etc. 18 authors are represented, and these articles, sermons and stories are truly the cream from 12 years weekly issues of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Chapters include a pic-

ture and brief biography of the author which will be valuable for quick reference. You will be blessed by this book—blessed and helped, instructed and inspired. 21 wonderful chapters, 352 pages. Bound in **\$2.50** green cloth, with gold stamping. Price

THE SOUL WINNER'S FIRE by Evangelist John R. Rice. Thousands of copies of this book have already been distributed in a paper bound edition, published by Moody Colportage Library. Now a big, new cloth-bound edition is ready. It is one of the most attractive books that we have seen! The blue cloth cover is stamped in gold, and the jacket is in two colors. There are eight chapters on soul winning that will stir your heart, give you a new vision of the need for soul winning, and change your life, if you will let it. A noted evangelist and soul winner, Dr. Rice is eminently qualified to give instruction for soul winning. In the pulpit and in personal conversation he wins souls. Better still, he has a unique understanding of the preparation a soul winner must have, and an equal ability to select Scripture concerning the needs of a soul winner. Every preacher should have this book; and he will want to pass it on to his deacons, and his Sunday School teachers, his department heads. A lovely book of 114 pages with space for notes. You will want this **\$1.25** book now! Price



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He Arose -- And So Shall We

(Continued from Page 3)

shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

Now to what will we be changed? We get the answer from I John 3:2 — "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

It will be wonderful to be like Jesus for then we will be sinless and perfect in mind and body and soul. Philippians 3:21—"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

How long will it take for this change to occur? It will come "in the twinkling of an eye." God can do things quickly. He said one day, "Let there be light," and the whole world was flooded with light. In that day, in the time that it takes to bat an eye, Christ will raise us up and automatically change us into His likeness. We will be like Jesus then, and what a wonderful change that will be. We want to be like Him now, but the flesh gets in the way. In that day the power of the flesh will have passed away and we will be like Jesus — not because of ourselves, but because of the amazing grace of our loving Saviour.

(2) Then we are going to be with Him and our loved ones. We tell our loved ones good-by, but we are admonished not to sorrow like others who have no hope for we have a blessed hope in Christ Jesus.

A man and his son were wrecked at sea. A piece of timber struck the father and rendered him unconscious. He was picked up by a boat and brought to a fisherman's cottage. After a while he waked up and realized that he was still alive. He thanked God that he had been rescued, but then a pang of sorrow came into his heart for he knew that his son was dead. But then he heard a noise near him and looking over right by his side he saw his son, for he, too had been rescued and was perfectly all right.

Our loved ones are going away from us one by one, but they are not lost to us. When Jesus comes He will take us up to be with them and we will find our loved ones right by our side. Oh, what a wonderful time it will be when He comes!

(3) Then we shall appear before the judgment seat of Christ. Why is that necessary? Aren't we saved? Yes, but the judgment seat is not only a throne upon which the Judge sits to punish evil-doers, but a seat from which the rewards are given out. Yonder is a soldier who performs a deed of heroism beyond the call of duty. One day he stands before his commanding officer and in the presence of the entire company of his fellow-soldiers the commanding officer gives him the medals voted him by a grateful nation. If we have been saved, if we serve Christ, we shall stand some day before Him at the judgment seat and in the presence of all the saints and angels He will reward us for the work that we have done for Him.

Are you working for Him now? There are some who are living for themselves and they have no time for Him. Christ has saved them and Christ has blessed them, but they have forgotten. They have money for self, but none for carrying His gospel around the world. They are serving in many places, but they are doing nothing for Jesus. What reward will be yours in that great day? Oh, we must appear before the judgment seat of Christ and we had better get busy for Him now!

(4) Then we will enter eternal glory and reign with Him. After the judgment seat, there will come the marriage supper of the Lamb. Now a marriage supper is always a time of rejoicing and happiness and when we sit down with Him at the marriage supper it will simply be the beginning of eternal joy and glory for us.

We are told that "if we suffer with him, we shall also reign with him." When He comes later to

the earth in glory He will bring us along to be co-workers with Him, and through the millennium, and through the ages to come we will live and reign with Jesus. We are not fitted for this work now, but when He makes us perfect even as He is perfect, we can perfectly do His will and His work.

3. What about the resurrection of the Lost?

After the millennium there will be a second resurrection — a resurrection for the lost only. The Bible says, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection." (Rev. 20:6). But, oh how tragic it will be for those who have rejected Christ and who shall come forth in this second resurrection!

(1) The lost will be brought up before the Great White Throne. They will not be brought there for condemnation — no, the Bible says that a man who rejects Christ is condemned already. They will be there to have their condemnation confirmed and the sentence carried out. I go into a prison and I walk down death row and I look through the bars. There is a man who has been sentenced to death. He is condemned already and some day soon they will take him to the electric chair and the sentence will be carried out. Well, I tell you that in like manner without Christ are condemned already, but yonder at the Great White Throne the sentence will be carried out.

(2) What is this sentence? They shall be cast into the lake of fire with the Devil and his angels. All through the Bible we are told of the penalty for sin. Now here we see the Great White Throne set up and Jesus, the Judge, is upon this throne. All the lost of all ages are gathered before Him — and then what happens? Read Revelations 20:15 — "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

The doom of a man is sealed when he comes to the Great White Throne, and whose fault is it? It is not God's fault for God called that man to repent of his sin. It is not Christ's fault for Christ died yonder upon Calvary to save him. It is not the fault of the Holy Spirit for the Holy Spirit convicts him of his sin and pleads with him to come to Christ. It is not the fault of the Church for the Church brought the gospel to him. It is not the fault of the pastor nor the Sunday School teacher, nor the mother and father, for through the years they have warned him and prayed for him. When a man comes before the Great White Throne to be sentenced, it will be his own fault. He chose sin and unbelief and left Christ out, and in that day he shall be raised up from the grave, he shall stand before the Great White Throne, and he shall be cast out and doomed forevermore.

Now which resurrection will you choose? Will it be a resurrection to glory or to doom, to life or to death? There is only one who can make the choice and you are that one. There is only one wise choice for you to make and that choice is the choice of Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour.

Dr. Grenfell, the great missionary doctor to the Labrador, was one day called to visit a dying girl in a fishing village. He went into the rude cottage and found an old sea captain there doing his best to take care of the girl. The doctor saw that she couldn't live. He did his best for her, assisted by the old sea captain. But Dr. Grenfell noticed that quite often the old sea captain would go to the door and look far out upon the sea. He seemed to be watching anxiously for something. The girl soon died. That night her body was prepared for burial and Dr. Grenfell and the sea captain took her bed and her belongings out to burn them in order to prevent the spread of infection.

They started a bonfire yonder upon a cliff overlooking the sea and burned these things. As they came away from the cliff the doctor asked the sea captain why he continued to look so anxiously out toward the sea. The old

(Continued from Page 1)

Acts 4:4 we are told, "Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand." There were five thousand men in that church, besides the women and children! And Acts 4:33 says, "And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all." Acts 5:14 says, "And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women." Acts 5:42 tells us, "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."

Oh, for Christians who carry on the work of a revival like that, daily winning souls, carrying on the blessing to everybody about them! That is what new converts, as well as older Christians, are supposed to do.

2. Soul Winning, the Dearest Thing on Earth to Jesus!

I wonder, dear Christian, do you remember the main thing on the heart of Jesus Christ? Do you not know how He gave Himself to leave Heaven, to live among the poorest of people, and then to be abused and hated? Do you remember that Jesus suffered the torments in Gethsemane, sweat the bloody sweat in an agony of soul, and then was killed with a traitor's kiss and led away to be tried? Do you remember the crown of thorns they put on His head and how they spit in His face, and plucked out His beard? Do you remember how they bound His hands and feet, tore off His garments and beat Him with a Roman scourge, the cat-o'-nine-tails? Do you remember how they laid upon Him the heavy cross, how He stumbled along the road to Calvary with it until He fell; then how He was nailed to that cross and then it was lifted up to hold Him there six hours until He died? Do you remember that even God the Father turned His face away from Jesus and He prayed, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Do you remember the three hours of darkness and then that He gave up the ghost? And, dear friend, remember that all this was to keep souls out of Hell! The third day He arose again from the grave, to be our justification. He ascended up to the Father and there He is today, our High Priest, interceding for us. Oh, dear Christian, we know what Jesus wants; He wants souls saved! He Himself told us, "Likewise joy shall be in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance" (Luke 15:7).

How can God be pleased with any Christian who is baptized and joins the church and reads his Bible and gives his money and prays, but will not do the main thing that Jesus wants people to do? Oh, this is the crowning climax of a happy, prosperous Christian life, to win souls! There is no happiness that I know anything about that can compare with a soul winner's joy. You remember that Psalm 126:5, 6 says, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." I know what it is to sow in tears; but, thank God, I know what it is to reap in joy, too! I know what it is to go forth weeping; but, oh, praise the Lord, I know what it means to come back rejoicing with sheaves! If you ever really get this blessing of soul winning and get a habit of soul winning you will have the highest kind of joy of which a Christian is capable in this world. And you will know that one day when you meet Jesus, He will be pleased. You will know that in Heaven you will have a rich reward, for Daniel 12:3 says, "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

Even a new convert can do it. How well I remember when I was fifteen years old and won my first convert, a boy about fourteen. Thank God! he was happy, about it, too! I never shall forget how he loved me. One day after both of us were men I went back to that little town where I grew up, to preach, and a tall, strong man came to me and said, "John, do you remember me?" I said, "Albert, is it you?" What a glad meeting it was! Then he brought in his wife and children to meet me, the man who had won him to Christ when I was fifteen years old and he was about fourteen.

3. Some Suggestions About How to Win Souls

Here are some suggestions about how to do it. First, use the Word of God.

Soul Winning

You should set out to memorize some verses of Scripture so that you can tell people how to be saved and why they need to be (Continued on Page 5)

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With the Evangelists

(Continued from Page 1)

Dr. Harry McCormick Lintz Reports 135 Saved, Many Restorations in South Bend, Indiana

"Dear Brother Rice: We have just closed in Central U. B. Church in South Bend, Indiana, one of the greatest crusades of my entire ministry. The attendance and interest were unusual, the convictions deep, and the results glorious. There were 452 definite decisions publicly recorded,—135 of these were first-time decisions. One lady, a member of Central Church for thirty-eight years, said, 'I have never seen anything like this before.' A man testified, 'I have never seen anything even comparable to this in forty-eight years.' Another said, 'South Bend has never been stirred like this by the

Spirit of God in many, many years. We were made to realize anew that 'It is not by might nor by power but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.' Oh, how the Spirit of God moved over church and community! Before coming to South Bend we held a crusade in the First Baptist Church of Yucaipa, Calif. There were 240 decisions in eight days; capacity crowds and overflows.

"From March 20 through April 3, we are in the historic Broadway Baptist Church of Indianapolis, Indiana. It is a church of 2,850 members. The Broadway Baptist Church is a member of the Southern Baptist Convention—the only Baptist church in Indianapolis to be identified with the Southern Baptist Convention. It is truly a great orthodox and evangelistic center. From Indianapolis we go to LaCrescenta, Calif., for a un-

ion campaign sponsored by the Swedish Baptist churches. Then, back to Columbus, Ohio, for a city-wide crusade supported by over fifty churches to be held in Memorial Hall from May 15 to June 5. The last five campaigns have been the most fruitful of my entire ministry. It seems to me that we are on the threshold of a national awakening. The Spirit of God is moving over our country. Pray that we may be found faithful and may be useable in this crisis hour.

"Yours for Saviour and souls," Harry McCormick Lintz.

Pastor Tom Malone Writes of Revivals

Rev. Tom Malone, pastor of the Emmanuel Baptist Church, 106 North Tasmania Street, Pontiac, Michigan, sends the following nice letter:

"Dear Dr. Rice: I am now at Owen Sound, Ontario, in a two weeks' revival campaign and God is saving souls. We have had responses to every invitation so far. I am to speak at Toronto Youth For Christ on Saturday 26th and close here Sunday 27th.

"I am enclosing a sermon for THE SWORD OF THE LORD. When you were here you asked me to send one in whenever it was put on my heart.

"I am happy to tell you that God has wonderfully blessed Emmanuel Baptist Church since your campaign with us. Many souls have been saved and record attendances have been set. March 6th we had 453 in Sunday School and March 13th we had 469. I have already baptized and received into the church about fifty and there are several more ready now. Even though there were 118 responses to the invitations when you were here, God was doing greater things than we could see and Emmanuel Baptist Church is certainly a different church since. We shall never cease to thank God for your fearless ministry in our midst.

"The sermon films of yours and Bill's have gone over good in the Pontiac area and we were happy to have Rev. Bloomer around for a few days.

"I am now on Station WHRV in Ann Arbor daily and expect to add still another station in a few days.

"May God bless you and your family and the workers.

"In His Grace,
TOM MALONE

"P. S. This sermon was preached at Peoples Church in Toronto on Sunday night in 1946 and many were saved at the close of the service."

Pastor Reports Blessed Campaign in Artesia, California, With Evangelist Eddie Wagner

Concerning revival campaigns formerly mentioned at Artesia, California, Pastor Robert Dell of the Carson Avenue Brethren Church writes:

"Dear Brother Rice: For two weeks during January—from the 9th through the 23rd—we had Evangelist Eddie Wagner in our little church of 30 members. During those two weeks there were 54 decisions and 44 for salvation. The meetings were

Dr. Bob Jones Says:

A few days ago I read this newspaper release: "The Salvation Army reports a total of 13,766 conversions brought about in its work in the United States during 1948." I am taking for granted these figures were released by the executives of this Christian organization which is doing and has done for many years so much good in so many parts of the world. When I read that there were 13,766 conversions as a result of the work of the Salvation Army, I said, "Isn't that wonderful!" Then I began to think that in one year and five months, we have official reports of more than 40,000 people who were led to the Lord Jesus Christ by the divinity students enrolled in Bob Jones University last school year and during the present school year. This report is not complete. There are, of course, conversions that are not on record. Then too, there are many thousands who have been brought to the Lord Jesus Christ by former ministerial students of Bob Jones University. There are a number of evangelists who are leading thousands of souls to Christ each year—evangelists who were trained in Bob Jones University and some of them were converted through Bob Jones University ministerial students and some converted on the university campus. It is impossible to comprehend the far-reaching influence of the institution of which I am the founder. Its influence has gone around the world. Yet the university has just begun to "hit its stride." We are training this year approximately three thousand young people, all of whom are Christians and one thousand of whom are young men preparing for the ministry and six hundred of

whom are young men and young women who are missionary volunteers. If the Lord tarries and Bob Jones University keeps on keeping on (and that is what it is going to do by the help of God), the results accomplished up unto now will sink into insignificance in comparison with the results that will be accomplished in the future. We are earnestly requesting Christian people everywhere to pray for our school. Pray for its founder and his son, who is president. Pray for its faculty and for the student body. Please pray and pray earnestly and pray daily that God may keep the school true to Him and may keep the evangelistic fires burning in the hearts of its students and graduates. We know that you who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity are interested in helping Bob Jones University carry on its great work. We are, therefore, asking you to contribute to the Student Loan Endowment Fund. We have a definite goal that we wish to meet before the end of this school year. So we hope you will make your contributions at the earliest possible moment. Our Bible Conference begins Sunday, April 3. We would appreciate your sending a contribution before that time as we wish to make a report of how much we have raised sometime during the Bible Conference. We thank all of you who have already helped us and who are going to help some more, and we thank all of you who have not yet helped us for what we believe the Lord is going to lead you to do. May God bless you.

BOB JONES.

Bob Jones University
Greenville, S. C.
(Advertisement)

well attended in spite of bad weather and sickness. We truly thank the Lord for the victories."

Evangelist Bill Piper Tells of Glorious Revival

We were glad to hear from Evangelist Bill Piper of Box 22, Greenville, South Carolina, concerning a blessed campaign in Pennsylvania. He wrote about the little book, *Seven Secrets of a Happy, Prosperous Christian Life*, and did not give many details of the campaign, but we are glad to have this word from a greatly-used soul winner.

"Dear Dr. Rice: Your complimentary copy of *Seven Secrets of a Happy, Prosperous Christian Life* came at a most opportune time. I have just returned from a glorious revival in Pennsylvania, where the Spirit of God was manifested in a mighty way. One hundred thirty-two precious souls came to know Jesus Christ during the campaign, and I have since learned that one more elderly man, for whom we were praying much, surrendered himself to God. In the midst of this campaign I was faced with the tremendous problem which your book handles so well, that is, the problem of those who are seeking for a feeling before they are saved and before they really trust Christ sincerely.

Many came weeping to the altar, and after meeting all the requirements that God expects any sinner to meet, they were apparently not satisfied because they were not struck with a thunderbolt from Heaven or shot by some bolt of electricity. I pounded home as best I could many of the things you emphasize so wonderfully in this volume."

Other Victorious Campaigns Reported

Mr. Ira Lee Eshleman, director of Miami Youth for Christ, writes in glowing terms of the blessed revival led by Dr. Billy Graham in Miami. Many were saved, though he does not give a definite report of the public decisions.

Evangelist Dan Vestal of 4506 Wayside Street, Fort Worth, Texas, writes of 85 revival campaigns in his four years of evangelistic work, with hundreds saved.

Pray for the evangelists.

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Soul Winning

(Continued from Page 4)

saved, and settle their doubts. I suggest that you read carefully, over and over, my little pamphlet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" As you read it, note the Scriptures, then look them up in your Bible, mark them there and memorize them. There you will find many, many Scriptures that show people they are sinners, that show them good works will not save and that show them how to trust in Jesus Christ. Then perhaps you might like to get Dr. R. A. Torrey's *Vest Pocket Companion for Soul Winners*. It has 118 pages with collections of Scriptures for every use of the soul winner. If you will have this at hand for a time until you learn it and grow familiar with it, it will help you to win souls. But remember that it is wiser to read directly out of the Bible itself and show sinners what God's Word really says. After you learn where the soul-winning promises are and what they say, use the Bible itself as far as possible.

Second, make your soul winning a matter of earnest prayer. You know that if you are to be a soul winner the Holy Spirit must come upon you, must fill you, must teach you what to say. The Holy Spirit must convict sinners when you speak to them if they are going to be convicted. So spend much time in prayer for sinners, asking particularly that the Spirit of God will guide you and give you power as you work for Him.

Third, I suggest that where that is possible, you get sinners out to church to hear some gospel preacher, some soul-winning evangelist or pastor. If you talk to them about Christ ahead of time and sit with them in the service, you may often encourage them by simply offering to walk down to the front with them, or to an inquiry room. Or you may ask such a friend to go with you to meet the pastor after the service, and frankly tell the pastor in his presence, "Here is a friend of mine I want you to meet. I am praying for him that he may be saved." God will help you. Many young and inexperienced Christians have been able to win souls by cooperating with the pastor or the evangelist in the public services.

Fourth, press for real decision. Just talking in general terms is not enough. No salesman is a good salesman who does not get names signed on the dotted line, who does not get actual orders. So urge upon sinners to accept Christ and pray that God will give you definite results day by day.

Last of all, you cannot expect to win many souls unless you go after them wherever they are.

Ask God to give you boldness. Ask the Spirit of God to show you where to go and what to say. And if He guides you He will help you to find the key to hungry hearts. He can help you to get in touch with people who need the gospel. Talk with men where you work. Talk with other students with you in school. When you meet people it is often an easy matter, if you are kindly and if you show yourself to be a genuine friend, to find out whether or not they know the Lord Jesus. It takes an earnest heart and genuine sincerity, and also it takes lots of work. So go after sinners, and may God give you wisdom and grace. May God give you a burning heart and a loving heart as you win souls to Jesus Christ.

When you win a soul then of course you should try to see that that new convert learns the lessons you are learning in this book, so he, too, can follow the Great Commission and be a successful and happy Christian and be a soul winner. So take time to see that one converted has assurance of salvation by the Word of God, to see that the new converts are enlisted in attending church, in reading the Bible and in regular prayer habits.

A Closing Word

The matters discussed in this book are so important that I urge every reader to plan to go through the entire book again, reading it carefully and prayerfully, and set out to check your life habits and plans by those followed by the Christians at Jerusalem, about whom we have studied. Then if you really follow these plans I know you will be a happy, prosperous Christian with the blessing of God upon you, with great joy in your heart, and with much fruit to present to the Saviour who died for you. God bless you as you set out to be a prosperous, happy, successful Christian!

Will you help to spread this little book? Wherever possible, a copy should go to every new convert. And if there are ways in which I can help you, please feel free to write the author at Wheaton, Illinois.

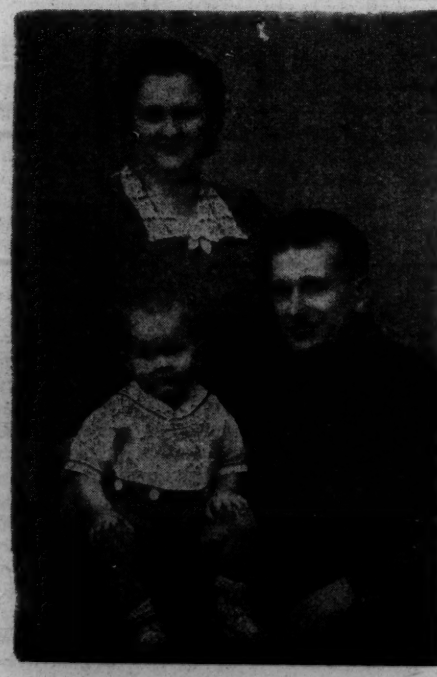
(Last chapter of seven in the book, *SEVEN SECRETS OF A HAPPY, PROSPEROUS CHRISTIAN LIFE*, which was given free during letter month to all who wrote. If you did not get a free copy, you may order the 64-page book now for 35c. Every young convert, every wavering, immature, defeated Christian should have this book. Pastors should place it in the hands of young church members; every home should have one. Send 35c today for your copy to *Sword of the Lord Publishers*, 214 W. Wesley St., Wheaton, Illinois.)

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Mr. and Mrs. Donald Smith of Camrose, Alberta, Canada, have been accepted as missionaries under the Alaska Evangelization Society to take charge of our chapel at Whitehorse where there is a white and Indian work. This splendid couple is in need of outgoing expenses and monthly support while on the field. Churches, Sunday School classes, Young People's Societies, Women's Missionary circles, etc., will find these missionaries worthy of consideration.

We shall be glad to enter into correspondence with any group or individual interested in supporting these missionaries. Canadian residents may remit in Canadian dollars or Canadian currency since funds received will be spent in Canada. Send for an illustrated bulletin telling of the work.

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Father Saved in Home--Revival Begins in Church Through Sword Film

By EVANGELIST BILL RICE
Associated Editor

I have just received the following letter from a Methodist pastor in Oklahoma. So thrilled was I with this letter that I want to share it with you in full.

"Rev. William Rice,
Wheaton, Illinois,
My dear Brother:

"Heard you preach, sound film in a home. A father converted and united with the church following. We have had in past week a score of decisions—all ages up to seventy.

"Feel led to ask you about coming here to conduct a revival. We want a town-wide, old fashioned revival."

"Pray over the matter and let God lead you.

Yours all for Christ,
"Harry S. Allen."

Boice-Plew Team in Two Fine Services

The Boice-Plew Team has just conducted a service in the Burnwood Gospel Center, Burnwood, Pennsylvania, and in the Calvary Baptist Church of Corning, New York. They report there were three who professed the Lord Jesus and thirty-two rededications. The decisions were all in the latter service.

These young men from Marathon, New York, are unusually fine film evangelists. They play musical instruments, conduct a lively song service and make an earnest appeal for those who are unsaved to come to Christ. We hear nothing but good from these young men everywhere they go.

Fred Bloomer Reports Twenty-Six Conversions

Film evangelist Fred Bloomer has been working with pastor Tom Malone and other pastors in the Pontiac, Michigan, area for the past two weeks. There were thirteen services in all and in these thirteen services there were twenty-six professed conversions and sixty-six rededications. Mr. Bloomer showed all three of the SWORD films, usually two in each service. Mr. Bloomer is a highly-educated and well-trained preacher of the gospel who has a warm heart and an earnest desire to win the lost. He often conducts the song service and usually sings once or twice in each service he conducts. He has a beautiful tenor solo voice and his singing is a delight to those who hear him. Mr. Bloomer tells us he is considering moving his family to the south sometime soon and will represent the Sword of the Lord in the Carolinas and neighboring states. We are extremely grateful for the ministry of this splendid young man.

James Stoutenborough in Washington State

Jim Stoutenborough is here with me in Spokane, Washington. Mr. Aanderud and I are conducting a revival campaign here with the Fourth Presbyterian Church and Mr. Stoutenborough is conducting one-night services in near-by communities. Jim is a fine and enthusiastic song leader and is doing good work as he is starting his new film ministry. We are so proud to have him on our staff and believe he will win many to Christ in the days ahead.

May We Help You?

The Extension Department was organized for the purpose of serving churches and religious organizations, helping them to spread the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and to win souls. The film evangelists on our staff usually conduct one-night services. In each service they show two of our three sermon films. The films are: "He That Winneth Souls Is Wise," a sermon by Dr. John R. Rice to Christian people about soul winning; "The Dying Thief," a sermon by Dr. Rice to the unsaved; and "I Am the Way," one of my own sermons to the unsaved. This is a message I have used again and again in youth rallies, Youth for Christ services, etc. All three of these films last approximately twenty-one minutes each and all three of them are true to

the Bible and evangelistic in spirit.

A film evangelist will come to your church to show two of these films, give a copy of THE SWORD OF THE LORD to everyone present, give an earnest invitation for the lost to accept Christ and help you in any way he is able to. There is no charge for this service but we do ask that an offering be taken in each service for the film evangelist since he does not have a regular salary.

We also have regular evangelists working with us on the Sword Extension Staff. If you need an evangelist or song leader for a revival campaign, why not write to me and I will gladly help you if I am able to do so. Everyone connected with the Sword Extension Department is capable, spiritual and are Christian gentlemen. If you would like for a film evangelist to come to your church for a one-night service or if you would like to have an evangelist come for a regular campaign, kindly write to me for further information: Evangelist Bill Rice, 214 W. Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

"Historic Christianity's Defense of Capitalism"

Under the above headline The Christian Beacon gives a statement adopted by delegates to the Seventh Annual Convention of the American Council of Christian Churches, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 28-31, 1948. We are glad to print it here because we believe that capitalism, which means the right of the individual to own property, and our free system of private enterprise were given by God, are supported by the Bible, and that Christians who properly understand and believe the Bible must oppose socialism and communism and maintain the historic American position, including the capitalistic system.

We are glad to print this statement by the American Council of Christian Churches because we believe it is a Scriptural statement on a very important matter. The statement follows:

The American Council of Christian Churches in annual session, Philadelphia, October 29, addresses itself, in the light of the historic Christian faith, to the recent action of the World Council of Churches in rejecting the ideology of capitalism: "Capitalism puts the emphasis upon freedom and promises that justice will follow as a by-product of free enterprise. That, too, is an ideology which has proved false." This pronouncement indicates how far astray modernism and rationalism have led the churches, and the need for a twentieth century reformation to preserve not only the historic Gospel but our free society. In view of the confusion produced by such a pronouncement, there are certain basic, Biblical teachings our people should recall in order to realize that our free system of private enterprise, under which God has prospered us as no other nation, is based upon God-given, Christian principles.

I. The Individual

Our people should remember that the individual is responsible to God in all that he is, has, and does. "Every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Rom. 14:12). This emphasis upon the individual demands that he be free to serve his God in all spheres of life. In no way is the State to interfere or put restraints about him where this responsibility shall be compromised. The World Council's pronouncement is based upon the assumption that such individual freedom should no longer be permitted because it is unjust. Such freedom does permit an expression of greed and selfishness by some, but the remedy is not to destroy the freedom of all. Freedom itself is not sinful or unjust. There must never be confusion between freedom and the

sin in man's heart, nor must freedom be blamed for the sin of man.

II. Private Property

Our people should recall that the Ten Commandments are the moral law which they should love and obey. This law protects our homes—"Thou shalt not commit adultery"; our lives—"Thou shalt not kill"; our good name—"Thou shalt not bear false witness"; our property—"Thou shalt not steal." This law presents a social order and is the foundation of our capitalistic system. The possession of property and the use of it is capitalism. To attack such property concepts, as socialism and communism do, is to attack God's law, and brings the curse of enslavement. To plead "human rights" for the destruction of property rights is a non sequitur, for the right of property is a basic human right. The church, instead of denouncing our free system and calling the economic order of socialism "economic justice," should be fortifying the foundations of freedom and exposing the multiplying tyrannies of socialism.

III. The Profit Motive

Our people should recall that the responsibility to get gain lawfully and to care for one's own is laid upon each man. The Apostle Paul declared: "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth" (Eph. 4:28). This is not the socialist principle, but the capitalist principle. The attack, in the name of religion, upon the profit motive denies the responsibility of the individual for himself. This profit motive, which is basic, may of course be accompanied by various other motives.

IV. Individual Judgment

Our people must remember that God's judgments are certain in time and eternity. The violation of His Commandments brings misery and death. The securing of gain in unlawful ways in the sight of God has its eternal punishment. "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. . . . The hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth; and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth" (Jas. 5:1, 4). The church, instead of asking us to destroy our free system, should be preaching God's Word to the nation and to the world, warning of such certain judgment at the hand of God who gave the Ten Commandments, the violation of which is sin. This compulsion leaves and protects liberty and is far greater than any socialist state which cannot reach the hearts of men, but only aggra-

vates and compounds the greed and lust of men.

V. The Free State

Our people should recall that it is the responsibility of the State to preserve, not to destroy, individual liberty. The State is "the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil" (Rom. 13:4). This "good" is defined by God's law, and this good in the light of that law is "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." The only restraints upon society which are justified are the restraints which keep people free. These may vary as society develops and moves on to greater material comforts and blessings, restraining at one time monopolies in business and at another monopolies in labor.

VI. Free Benevolences

Our people should recall that God has placed a responsibility upon each individual for stewardship and free benevolence: "That he may have to give to him that needeth" (Eph. 4:28). To permit the State to assume responsibility from the cradle to the grave for food, clothing, housing, and health is to grant it the place of lord and master and to permit it to usurp the place that belongs to the Christian's God. Such socialistic paternalism produces serfs. No longer, in such a circumstance, could the Christian say, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Free benevolence is an absolute necessity for the preservation of society, in need, health, and culture. When such sources are dried up and the State assumes the responsibility, socialist and collectivist principles enter to possess the State.

VII. The Gospel of Grace

Christians are to be the salt of the earth. The Gospel of Jesus Christ offers to men a "new birth" and forgiveness of their

sins. This Gospel enables men, by the power of God, to love and to keep the commandments of the Lord. It is impossible to preserve and maintain a free society without a vigorous, aggressive, evangelizing church. Our heritage of freedom is rooted in the churches which built our land. When churches turn aside to another message, the social gospel, which now reveals itself to be against our free enterprise society, it is required that those churches remaining by the historic doctrines declare the Gospel of grace that men may know that Christ died for our sins and that by faith men may be saved—given a love for their fellow men and the gift of everlasting life.

VIII. Prayer and Action

We call upon God's people to join in prayer to the Almighty, that our nation shall be spared, that Christian people of the land may see the peril of such an attack upon capitalism and shall not be deceived by the false slogan wherein the "kingdom of God" is offered as the socialist system and men are made to believe that freedom and socialism can be combined and freedom preserved. There can be no compromise with freedom; it is indivisible. It is the most priceless possession that we have upon the earth. Such an attack made upon it in the name of the church, in the hour when we are being attacked as never before by the communistic revolutionary forces, calls for vigorous activity in making known the truth of God's Word and the error which would destroy our free society.

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Picture of revival crowd that overran the Civic Auditorium in Marion, Kansas, with Evangelist Bill Rice and singer, Emil Aanderud, sponsored by the Christian Business Men and local churches. (This photograph shows only a little more than half of the choir and only a few rows of the large auditorium.) This picture was run in the local newspaper, by whose courtesy we reproduce it here.



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THE WAY OUT FOR A TROUBLED AND DEFEATED CHRISTIAN

By the Editor

Many other Christians need the comfort and assurance needed by a troubled Christian woman who wrote the editor. If you are living a defeated life, with regrets and worries, I suggest that you try the blessed divinely-given remedy which I have suggested for the good woman who wrote me.

Dear Mrs. Sims:

I have your letter and oh, how many times this same story has come to me! And how often my own heart has felt the same way! We had an opportunity and let it pass. We were unkind to someone who is now gone. We should have won some precious soul but we neglected the opportunity and that one died without us having the assurance that he was saved. Dear friend, do not feel that your distress over failures in the Christian life is different from what many others have felt.

However, I have hope for you and I want you to read very carefully what I say and take it to heart at once and have this feeling of defeat overcome at once by God's grace.

1. First, of all, you have the plain word of God that when you confessed your sin to God it was instantly forgiven. First John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Do you doubt God's truthfulness? Do you doubt the mercy which He claims to have for us poor and unworthy children of His? Your lack of peace is primarily a lack of taking God at His word. Dear sister, now, once

and for all, for the last time, lay your neglect and sins of the past down before Jesus, thank Him for forgiving you, as He promised to do. Thank Him for cleansing away the guilt, as He promised to do. Thank Him for helping you to do better, as He certainly will if you believe Him about this.

2. Second, you want to develop the kind of Christian character that will help you to have patience and overcome temptation and live victoriously. To do that I suggest the following:

Set out to read the Bible some every day and meditate in it throughout the day. Hide some of the precious Word of God in your heart. The Word of God, hidden in the heart, will help you to live and overcome life. "Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psa. 119:11). There is a wonderful, satisfying, cleansing result of taking plenty of time with the Bible every day and growing to love it and feasting on it and meditating in it day and night.

Then take everything to God in prayer day by day as it comes up. "Keep short account with God." When you do wrong, confess it to God. If you have wronged anybody else and ought to confess it to them, then do so at once and make peace. "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath" (Eph. 4:26). If you have a need, take it to God at once. If you are tempted, stop and pray in secret. One can take plenty of time to pray so that he will not be overcome with temptation. Remember Jesus said, "Watch and pray, lest ye enter into temptation." If you pray often enough and stay before the Lord until you have peace and assurance that He is with you each time, then you can overcome your temptations and can live a life that is on the whole victorious and happy all the time.

Third, and last of all, remember that fretting is a sin. It is a result of lack of faith. I would take Philippians 4:6, 7 as a motto, "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Don't be anxious about anything. When cares and temptations and regrets press upon you, go to prayer! Wait on God until you have peace. Then thank the Lord happily and go on your way!

I am glad you wrote me and I pray God will wonderfully help you to do His will.

In Jesus' name, yours,
JRR/vw John R. Rice

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Methodists, Read This!

By the Editor

We are glad for the thousands of Methodists who are subscribers to THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Many fine Methodist pastors are among our subscribers. To all these we want specially to mention a fine Methodist paper, THE METHODIST CHALLENGE, edited by Dr. Bob Shuler, pastor of Trinity Methodist Church, Twelfth and Flower Streets, Los Angeles.

Dr. Shuler, known for years as "fighting Bob" because of his strong stand against sin in high places, against liquor, against modernism, and against the Devil, is a loyal Methodist, pastor of one of the largest churches of the Methodist denomination. But his paper, THE METHODIST CHALLENGE, carries on a continual fight against modernism in Methodist circles and outside. He carries on a continual exposure of tendencies toward communism, of backsliding from the old-fashioned articles of religion. His editorials are pungent and powerful. I enjoy THE METHODIST CHALLENGE as one of the great independent monthlies. It is one of the most stimulating and helpful of all the exchanges that come to THE SWORD OF THE LORD office.

The subscription price is \$1.00 per year. Others besides Methodists will be blessed and helped by this publication, I am sure. But no Methodist ought to be without it.

Address your subscription to THE METHODIST CHALLENGE, 1201 South Flower Street, Los Angeles 15, California. And if you are not blessed by this strong magazine, loyal to Christ, true to the old-fashioned, Bible-believing platform, then I will certainly be glad to see that you get your money back. Subscribe today to THE METHODIST CHALLENGE if you can.

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"This volume concludes with a most excellent chapter on the 'Delivery of a Sermon.' This alone is so well done that every public speaker should read and greatly profit thereby. We have here in one small volume the very best wisdom of a noble preacher of the glorious gospel of Divine grace. The close perusal and application of the contents will make better preachers of us all. For this our congregations and preachers alike will rejoice together."

Peter Stam, Jr., Dean and Registrar, Faith Theological Seminary, says in his review:

"An excellent short treatise, which will be found most helpful in connection with a course in Practical Theology. Clear thinking, spiritual discernment and practical advice characterize the book. Young preachers as well as prospective pastors will gain much help from these pithy chapters, each one full of suggestions from the heart and experience of one whose ministry was signally blessed for more than a half century of fruitful service."

Get this book at your bookstore, or order it from Sword of the Lord Publishers, 214 West Wesley St., Wheaton, Ill.

PLAYING CARDS WITHOUT GAMBLING?

Dear Mrs. E—:

You were kind to write me and I will answer as clearly as I can.

1. It is true that playing cards might in many cases be simply innocent squares of pasteboard. On the other hand, since regular playing cards are usually used for gambling, whether playing poker or bridge for money or playing bridge for prizes, it is likely that any young Christian who should see those cards in your home would suppose that you gambled with them. And they would probably reason that if you played cards it would be all right for them to play bridge or poker. Or if they knew that gambling was wrong, it is nearly certain that they would think you were condoning gambling, and their confidence in your Christian life would be greatly shaken. So there are two Scriptures that would apply. The first is, "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Thess. 5:22). And the other is in I Corinthians 10:23-33, which I hope you will read carefully. You will see, then, that not all things which are lawful are expedient; that one must consider the conscience of weaker Christians as well as his own; that one must, whether he eats or drinks or whatever he does, do it to the glory of God, and that a Christian should be careful not to give an offense "neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God." Each Christian must seek to profit others in such matters. I say with Paul, that "if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend" (I Cor. 8:13). It cannot be denied that regular playing cards are constantly connected with gambling, and one who is against gambling should not let anything leave the impression on others that he favors gambling.

It would be wrong for me to have whisky bottles sitting in my house even if I never drank, and I would not be willing to have even empty whisky bottles left about so that any one could misunderstand my position. You see, you must consider not only yourself but others in the matter.

2. You are afraid, you say, that "trivial issues" will turn people away from the gospel. Actually, from long experience in dealing with multiplied thousands of lost people and seeing thousands of them saved, I know that lost people are far more critical of Christians on these so-called "trivial" matters than Christians themselves generally think. And the Christians who are too large-hearted to trouble themselves about obeying the Bible and honoring Christ on smaller matters will find they do not have as much influence either with Christians or lost sinners. Believe me, dear sister, I know from long experience.

3. But if we displease everybody else in the world, we Christians must still please the Lord Jesus. You say, "I can't believe that Jesus was concerned about the innocent games we mortals play... or what kind of clothes we drape around our bodies." And you mention particularly whether

or not women should wear slacks or bob their hair, or whether Christians should play with playing cards.

Dear friend, if you read the Bible much you will certainly come to see that the Lord Jesus had it on His heart all the time to follow the Word of God. So when the Scripture says, "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God" (Deut. 22:5), you may be sure that Jesus who is Himself "the Lord thy God" feels it is an abomination for a woman to dress like a man. Nothing in the Bible is unimportant to Jesus. And when the Scripture plainly says in I Corinthians 11:1-16, that long hair is a glory to a woman and cut hair a sign of rebellion against her God-given position, we may be sure that the Lord Jesus who inspired Paul to write it still feels the same way today. Only modernists and infidels ever try to exalt Jesus while they discredit the Bible. And no one could be a true friend of Christ without believing the Bible and honoring it.

Of course the reason you think these things are unimportant is because you do not really see the great spiritual lessons the Lord had in mind when the Lord gave these commands. If you would read my book, *Bobbed Hair, Bossy Wives and Women Preachers*, I am sure you would see that the deepest spiritual truths are involved and you would immediately see why the commands were given and know that they honor Christ.

You were kind to write me and I do accept your letter as from a friend in Christ. Will you feel free to write me at any time, and will you pray for this work? Thank you for your subscriptions to others. May God reward you. In the Saviour's name, yours,
John R. Rice.

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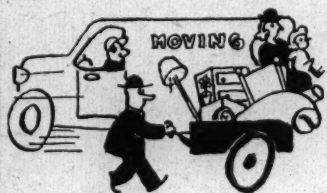
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MAY, 1949

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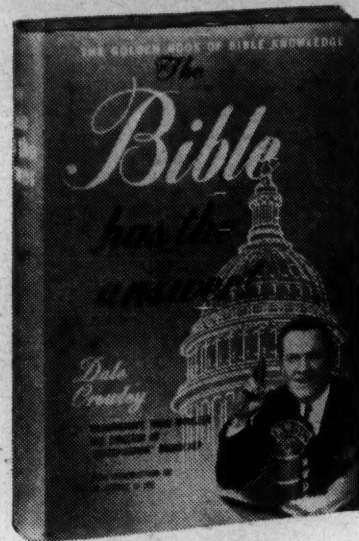
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